

Victoria Street Newz

October/November 2005

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we
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*May money from the sale of this newspaper be used
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Vol. 2 No. 3

The train they call the City of New Orleans

I wonder how many of the dead and destitute in the wake of Katrina were in this bottom 80%. I would bet the majority were. After all, if you don't own a car where do you go? And even if you do own one you may not have the money for the gas needed to escape. If you have a disability you can bet handi-dart wasn't picking people up and even if they were, there wasn't enough time, manpower or political will. Add to that being homeless, or an addict and you can bet you weren't getting a free ride to anywhere. That is if you were fortunate enough to have a TV or radio in the crummy room you survive in day after day, so that you were aware in time to hitch hike out. Better to try and survive in the hell hole you know than the hell hole you don't.

Just trying to survive month to month in BC when you are on welfare or a low income person is enough to gag a maggot. I wonder what our emergency plan is! Who knows, seems like Cuba had a force 5 hurricane and they fared much better than the states, probably better than we will when the "big one" hits.

I kept thinking about the stupidity about welfare and the barbaric hoops poor people have to jump through, listening to all the hoopla about sunscreen and cancer. After all when a single parent has to choose between bread and milk or sunscreen you can bet the kids bellies want the food. How many were already homeless, maybe for some waiting it out in someone else's place was a luxury, even with no hydro, no toilets and maybe no food or water.

I wonder how the states are going to do all this, most people don't have medical anyway, they can't afford it, many didn't have house insurance or contents insurance, when you're poor you get the most basic stuff, like food. You think maybe there will be a big push to get them all housed, guess again. There were homeless before now there are just a lot more.

What plans does BC have or Victoria for that matter, do you know? I don't and even if we do know can we get there or will some of us be hampered by our incomes or our bodies.

This government couldn't even keep pace with the needs of the most vulnerable, the poor and the disabled. Cuts to homecare, cuts to welfare and a cost of living going up by god knows how much each year. I got gas the other day, 50\$ to fill the tank instead of the 35\$ about 6 months ago.



People think you're rich when you have a vehicle but it is a hold over from my former life as an employed person, my bit of escape or used to be before the free forestry camping spots disappeared or the government put in parking meters in the parks or else privatized the campsites so that even though I camp for free at the campsites I now have to pay the reservation fee of 8.00 \$ per night. Running away to Vancouver to mooch off my kids or friends has become too expensive, 100\$ for the ferry and 50\$ in gas makes a holiday a non-issue.

How will we survive if it happens to us! Well those with a charge card or the cash will bugger off to who knows where, probably in relative safety while the poor and disabled wallow in the remains of what was a city. I guess it can all be seen in an exercise in futility as we won't learn from this one either.

I watched the big concert for the poor in Africa and wondered how we ignore our own while trying to help other countries and we can't even provide for Canadians, I see the CAW is having a big drive to pay for HIV meds in Africa but we can't get meds for Hep C Victims in BC. Seems stupid somehow to build huts in some other country and evicting "illegal campers" aka "homeless people" from the beaches and bushes around Victoria.

All of this drains me as I try to continue to do a needle exchange program with no funding or attend a support group for drug addicts that has no funding. I keep it up I guess because it infuriates me that Canadians will jump at the chance to prove their kindness by giving to other countries while people are homeless and in despair in Canada - Victoria. We want to move the panhandlers along because they bug the tourists, we do not want to admit or be concerned with those we deem less than deserving. Yes there are many programs, yes there are many good kind and generous people in Victoria but look where we are. Food bank use is up by 47%, in Victoria, we had 700 homeless - January 2005, in the big snow in 2003-4 we had 450 homeless who were temporarily housed.

Somehow I don't think we are any better off than the states nor are our poor any better off than many of those wiped out by Katrina. This winter it will be worse. Rev Al Tysick at the open door can't find a place willing to rent to him - no one wants the poor, mentally ill or drug addicts in the back yard.

We need to sweep our own door step before we throw comments at the States.

Written by Carol Romanow - a mother, grandmother, and organizer for SOLID - the Society for Intravenous Living Drug Users.



About Street Newz

“Building Bridges within our Downtown Community”

The **Victoria Street Newz** mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like the sliding-scale method of donations because it offers folks a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the **Victoria Street Newz** coalition and vendors, and by reading information that informs you directly about poverty and homeless issues. Please consider purchasing another copy later in the month, for a friend.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (for confirmation), and may be edited for length.

Opinions expressed in this newzpaper are not necessarily those of **Victoria Street Newz**, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

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streetnewz@pej.ca or streetnewz@islandnet.com
http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org

Victoria Street Newz is a project of the Bread and Roses Collective - a not-for-profit Society whose purposes are to relieve poverty and advance educational opportunities for socially disadvantaged and/or economically marginalized people.

For more information, or to receive a copy of the constitution and bylaws, please write to streetnewz@islandnet.com or call 413-3235.

One way to support the Bread and Roses Collective, is to donate to Vancity account #484824, branch #42.

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Fifteen More Minutes For Democracy

Any comprehensive discussion of poverty and homelessness necessarily includes an examination of the economic and political structures which exist alongside it. Often this discussion leads to a polarized debate of the vices and virtues of the private enterprise (Capitalist) vs. state ownership (Socialist) systems that have evolved over time on this planet. I recently found myself in the midst of this debate, again, and have decided to scribe my understanding of it. Feel free to forward your own thoughts.

Proponents of Capitalism, promoting private ownership of the means of production (business), often point to the millions who died under Stalin's rule as a way to discredit all Socialist and Communist ideology. State ownership, claim the Capitalists, is just another form of Totalitarianism whereas small-scale Capitalism, with talented individuals competing on an equal scale in a free market, is much more equitable and fair.

Socialists argue that popular collectives, rather than individuals, should control the means of power/production/business. To support their claim, these can direct attention to the disasters created/endorsed/administered by the current US administration where unaccountable leadership ignores public opinion, with disastrous results. They might point to the sale of BC's assets, including Terasen Gas (formerly publicly owned BC Gas) to Texas based Kinder Morgan, or the privatization of BC Hydro, BC Ferries, and the Medical Services Program, as examples of Capitalism gone wrong.

Politicians typically lean towards Capitalist ideology (on the right) or Socialist philosophy (to the left). Currently, BC's Provincial Legislature is comprised of 46 Liberals (Capitalists) who form the official "Government," and 33 New Democrats (Socialists) who make up the official "Opposition". Proponents of electoral reform advocate for coalition governments which, it is hoped, will function more expediently as a team, finding some middle ground and building consensus on issues critical to their taxpaying employers. For now, those who love a debate can appreciate the fifteen extra minutes our elected officials have been granted to discuss and debate during question period in the Legislature.

Critics of Capitalism are concerned that it's evolved into Corporatism, with distant and uncaring CEOs pulling the strings of governments who are, in turn, busy distorting the underlying principles of democracy. Socialism's critics say its representatives are also working for their Corporate chums (lobbyists) rather than the average working people (who are usually too busy trying to earn enough to sustain their families so they have neither the time nor the energy to regularly contact their elected representatives). Many working people have formed Unions with a collective voice (lobby) that might influence elected officials more powerfully than an individual cry from the wilderness. Environmental organizations can also offer a progressive and collective call for change, (although there is increasing criticism from 'radical' environmentalists concerned that the 'enviro-corps' have sold out with corporate compromises, for example the Great Bear Rainforest deal).

Regardless of whether an individual considers her/himself a Capitalist or Socialist, belongs to a Union, or adds his/her voice to the call for a sustainable earth future, we all must function (to some extent, and to varying degrees) within the dominant economic model called Capitalism. Unfortunately, as David Suzuki has succinctly explained, "conventional economics is a form of brain damage ... economists believe that human beings are so productive and so inventive that they can base the entire economy on that, but when you ask them where do you put ozone layers or underground aquifers or topsoil or biodiversity in economic equations, they simply say that those are externalities ... when the bottom line is maximizing profits in the shortest length of time, then the long term sustainability and well-being of communities and ecosystems no longer count" (excerpted from GASCD - www.gascd.com).

Individuals are products of their environments, and individuals with power behave in different ways, regardless of where they are, and probably because of where they've been. It is small-scale free market Capitalis m that allows Gordy Dodd, for example, to offer a Thanksgiving dinner each year to about 400 hungry people in Victoria (though many of us would appreciate more veggies, less dead animal). Asked why he does this, Gordy told me "I got sick a couple of years ago and the people prayed for me. We're celebrating our 28th anniversary this September, and I do it [thanksgiving dinner] with thanks to the God for what he as given to me."

Hugo Chavez is an example of a benevolent Socialist with plenty of power. As president of Venezuela, he and his government control about 1/5 of America's oil, distributed in the US through Citgo. When the hurricane hit New Orleans, Hugo and his government offered two plane loads of supplies, including 18 generators, 18 water purifiers, 2 mobile hospital units, 20 tons of water, and 50 tons of food. He also has a plan to provide cheap fuel to impoverished people in American cities - I've heard gas in Venezuela currently sells for \$.15 a gallon. Chavez, clearly, is not Stalin, but regardless the planes, their contents, and his oil-for-the-poor program have been denied entry into the US. And Evangelist Pat Robertson has recently called for Hugo's assassination.

The Socialist structure encourages sharing more readily than the Capitalist winner-take-all mentality, but individuals within organizations are ultimately responsible for making, breaking, or bending the rules in whatever way they choose. Co-operatives, Not-for-Profits, and Credit Unions are all examples of organizations with a philosophical basis that promotes an equitable distribution of wealth rather than merely an individual accumulation of it, and some of these are more generous than others. Vancity credit union, for example, functions within the mainstream world of money but, unlike the major banks, is mandated to return 30% of its annual profits to the community. One of the candidates for their annual \$1 million award this year is Our Place - the new Open Door/Upper Room centre for Victoria's street folk. And Vancity contributes smaller amounts to many local non-profits, including this little newzpaper.

While the Street New z offers an example of small-scale Capitalist/Socialist/Anarchy, attempting to make the best of all those worlds, an individual named David Arthur Johnston provides a example of and for the brave individuals who choose to reject the brain damaged economic system entirely. David's a gentle and spiritual man who is crusading for the right to sleep, an essential consideration that's the theme of a new documentary produced by Andrew Ainsley and David Shebib. Contact Andrew at sandboxproductions@gmail.com or check loveandfearlessness.com for more information about that.

So there are progressive alternatives functioning within the dominant capitalist ideology, led by individuals and boards of directors with varying benevolent tendencies, and all of these are bound by rules and regulations that reflect the will of the government of the day. This can lead to some challenges within the 'alternative' sector. A recently provincial ruling says non-profit organizations are no longer required to register their annual financial reports, making it rather more difficult for you, or the local media, to see where and how they've spent the money you gave them. Charities, because of federal legislation, are not allowed to give to non-profits unless they're also registered charities.

The Bread and Roses Collective is a non-profit established to support the Victoria Street Newz, and we've recently been denied charitable status - a decision made by a single federal civil servant in Ottawa. We might appeal her decision but, as she explained, "at least 90% of the beneficiaries [of a charity] must be registered charities." So even if the Bread and Roses were a registered charity, it wouldn't help the Street Newz because it is not. Without charitable status we're unable to apply for funding from all the other charities, including the United Way, the Victoria Foundation, and the Fraser Institute (commonly described as a 'right wing think tank'), and we can't issue tax receipts, like they can.

Fortunately for communities everywhere, there are generous individuals and organizations sharing the wealth. And, until the corporate monopoly entire eliminates all competition, consumers can wield their collective power every time they choose to shop. The debate over which system works best will, no doubt, continue. Actually, now's a good time to drop in to the Legislature and listen to our elected representatives at work. They've got fifteen extra minutes for your democracy.

... around town ...

CORPORATE LEADERS CHALLENGED TO TAKE ACTION ON ISSUES THAT THREATEN QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of Life in BC's Capital Region 2005 contains hard data and illustrations about 36 quality of life indicators showing where the region is moving toward or away from sustainability. The report also includes practical suggestions about how to improve our quality of life.

The findings show that quality of life is dynamically linked with the sustainability of our economy, our physical environment and the health of our community.

The Quality of Life CHALLENGE is recognized nationally as one of the most innovative and comprehensive ways of addressing complex issues.

***Quality of Life in BC's Capital Region 2005* is available on www.communitycouncil.ca and www.qolchallenge.ca.**

LOVE Heals

Guaranteed Livable Income Project receives funding

The Women's Livable Income Working Group of the Status of Women Action Group (SWAG) is carrying out an 18 month project (as of July 2005) examining how women would benefit from a Guaranteed Livable Income.

Funded by Status of Women Canada, the Women's Economic Justice Project follows up on work started over 30 years ago by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women which recommended guaranteed annual income especially for single parents. Today Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) or Basic Income, is experiencing a world wide revival. South Africa, Brazil, England, Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, the US and numerous other countries, have active guaranteed income groups. At the most recent World Social Forum in Brazil, 800 people attended a forum on the topic.

The goals of the Women's Economic Justice Project are to:

- * Investigate the benefits to women of a universal GLI compared to the continuation of the feminization of poverty & the costs of pursuing jobs as solutions to poverty;
- * Disseminate our findings to expand social policy debate in BC and elsewhere to include a discussion of guaranteed livable income;
- *. Analyze the response to our findings in order to increase effectiveness of future action on women's economic justice.

The project will include 40 in-depth interviews with low-income women, several focus groups, a public meeting in April 2006 and the distribution of multi-media material. More details are available on the SWAG website: <http://pacificcoast.net/~swag/swcproject05.htm>

We would like to thank the Status of Women Canada BC/Yukon Region for financial support towards our initiative.

Women's Economic Justice Project Coordinator: Cindy L'Hirondelle
Victoria Status of Women Action Group (SWAG) 3
Email: swag@pacificcoast.net
Website: www.pacificcoast.net/~swag
Phone: 250-383-7322 (no fax)
Box 8484, Victoria BC, V8W 3S1
Coast Salish Territory

Make Poverty History - Victoria

Local organizations and individuals are promoting the Make Poverty History (MPH) campaign in Victoria. They're calling for:

- More and Better Foreign Aid,
- Trade Justice,
- 'No Strings Attached' Cancellation of Foreign Debts, and
- An end to Child Poverty in Canada.

Here's how you can get involved:

1) **Join the Coalition:** Monthly meetings - phone Elizabeth for details - 385-2333 or www.videa.ca

2) **Come out to our events:** The Social Justice Film Series happens monthly at UVic. October 17th is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - watch the film *Hide & Go Homeless*, and join the discussion at UVic's IQ Bistro Grad Student Lounge, 7pm, Free.

3) **Work toward the MPH goals:** Incorporate poverty-reduction goals into your social group, church, union, organization, or workplace programming.

4) **Volunteer:** Committed individuals are always needed to transport volunteers and supplies, staff tables, organize venues, advertise, and plan events. VIDEA's Global Youth are planning a benefit concert in the fall; there's a Waged Poor Theatre Project in November, and White Band Day on December 10th—lots of help is needed!

5) **Spread the word:** Tell your friends, acquaintances, colleagues, and strangers about this campaign and invite them to participate. Wearing the white MPH armbands and writing letters to public officials and/or editors of your favourite publications are a few ways to demonstrate your support.

6) **Find out more:** Contact VIDEA, or visit the Canadian Make Poverty History Website for more information: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/>

*Living organically is
Not Choosing -cides*



Originally established in Fernwood in 1970, the Cool Aid Community Health Centre (CHC) relocated to 465 Swift St. in 1991.

Primary health care is provided by nurse practitioners, physicians, mental health & addictions counsellors, a nutritionist, acupuncturist, pharmacist, and visiting psychiatrists.



Manager Irene Haigh-Gidora

Clinic Hours:
385-1466

Mons & Tues:
9 am-6 pm

Weds & Thurs:
9 am-8 pm

Fridays:
9 am-3 pm

Saturdays
10 am-2 pm

The dental clinic provides a full spectrum of quality dental care services at reduced fees.

Dental Clinic Hrs:

Mondays-Fridays
8:45 am-1pm, 2pm-4pm

Phone 383-5957 for
appointment, or drop in
between 9am-1pm.

A few words from Rose Henry, candidate for Victoria City Council

I am from the Coast Salish Territory where I am a registered member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation (Nanaimo) originally from Sliammon. Self identity and believe in a better future for my culture and the people in my community is very important to me. I believe that I can help bridge the gaps between urban First Nations, the reserve community and the people suffering from multiple discriminations based on race and class.

I moved to Victoria to attend college in 1983. I arrived here as a single parent of an eighteen month old child, in the middle of a general strike. I have lived

in the down town core of this city since the early 1980s. I graduated from being a full time student and single mom right into being a foster parent, a married woman and becoming a recognizable community activist for issues relating to people's Human Rights being denied.

It is because of my life experiences that I have

taken a strong stand in defending people's rights and joined boards such as the Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS-14+yrs), Victoria Native Friendship Center (VNFC-6 yrs.), The Victoria Street Community Association (VSCA-4 yrs.), joined the Capital Region Race Relation Association (CRRRA-3 yrs.), the Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition (2+yrs) and have advocated that accessibility to education is one solution for the eradication of poverty.

People wishing to help me with my campaign can contact me through my E-mail address at: Phoenixstar62@hotmail.com



thoughts

Please accept a contribution for Street Newz. I do not want a subscription because I look forward to purchasing your paper from Ted. Even though my husband & I live in Saanich, we frequent the Arriba coffee shop, where we often connect with Ted. This past week he referred us to the Monday Magazine article on welfare - a huge eye-opener. The 'system' doesn't work due to a lack of compassion & ever-present harsh judgement. Unfortunately, it is close to impossible to change that mind-set, & it is terribly wrong.

I enjoy your paper - it educates & advocates for people less fortunate. I was deeply affected by the poetry-particularly "No Matter What the Expert Say The Monster Feels," by Paul Burnside. He is extremely gifted.

Keep up the great work-it's of value.

Many Thanks,
Vicki

Editor's note: various works by Paul Burnside can be found at Dark Horse Books on Johnson Street.



When I was a child I sat at the knee of then Premier Cec Bennett and heard his opinion of the STV, which had been in effect during his first successful election as leader. I also had the benefit of the recollections of my father, and other media observers of the time.

It was the universal opinion of all concerned that the process was a disaster. The open barter of second choice support among candidates made the process much more complicated, the endless recounts left huge gaps between e day and the announcement of a winner, and (according to Mr. Bennett) "the time lag creates too many opportunities for wholesale fraud."

That was just the STV. The proposal to create the super ridings with umpteen seats would complicate the timelines even further, but muddy the waters beyond belief when you consider the internal bureaucratic implications. With the nomination processes of most of the parties this would make it almost impossible for a candidate at odds with his provincial office to get nominated. The result of this would be an extreme likelihood that anybody in office would stand up to the leadership, because they would NEVER be nominated again.

This would not improve democracy.

It is time for the advocates of this thoroughly discredited proposal to get on with their lives. Thinking and aware citizens do not need to install an easily corrupted system, they need to get active in public outreach and education. The problem is not a bad system; it is ignorant and poorly informed voters. Stupid voters elect bad governments no matter how the ballots are counted.

Further, only a fool would interpret the referendum results as approval. A large number of the yes votes were people unhappy with the government who simply do not understand the systems proposed. They would have voted for change if it had involved disenfranchisement of others or invading the Yukon.

The entire proposal is unworkable. That is why most former premiers of all parties who weighed in opposed it. As people who had once been responsible for elections BC they knew what bad ideas were contained therein.

This was inevitable once previously political people were excluded from the process. Ignorance is not a great tool for useful change.

David Lowther

BC WELFARE PROGRAM A BUST SAYS DELAYED REPORT

Loses \$13 million. High failure rate. Neediest not served.
By Andrew MacLeod <http://thetyee.ca/News/2005/08/11/WelfareReport/>



Dear Editor,

I would like to bring attention to the importance of creating a living will. Elderly people commonly make the mistake of only creating a will upon death with no provision for accidents or senility. If they suffer a serious injury, like a broken hip, the Public Guardian and Trustee can take over their affairs.

Quite often elderly people have children who, through either physical or mental disability, are partially dependent. If the Public Trustee takes over the dependents are abandoned and left to fend for themselves. Even if the elderly person is wealthy the Public Trustees deem that they need every cent to pay for their care and there is nothing available for anything else. Also the elderly person only gets a small allowance to live on. They worked hard for their money, they should be able to enjoy it.

I think this is a travesty. How can someone have that much power?

John Swietalski

John wants to establish a non-profit organization to help people create living wills, assist victims of druggings, and organize visits for physically and/or mentally challenged "shut-ins" to assist them with their needs. For more information or to help, leave a message for John c/o 413-3235.

Dear Janine,

I read your article on your dental experiences, and I want to share mine (with recommendation of a remedy). I am 59 years old, always took good care of my teeth - in my 50s began to get gum disease, deep pockets of infection around my teeth which were getting loose. Went for deep cleaning at Camosun - time consuming, painful, and the local anesthetic made me sick for days afterward with flu-like symptoms.

I researched herbal remedies and found myrrh powder, which is in expensive natural toothpastes. It is a natural antiseptic - my gums tightened, pain & bleeding disappeared. It is available in powder form for a tooth powder at Self-Heal Herbs on Blanshard. Simply put a pinch of myrrh powder in the palm of your hand and scoop it up with a wet toothbrush. Don't put wet brush directly into package or jar as the myrrh will become lumpy and sticky and resemble its original resin form. Very cheap, and it works! Important for us to hang onto our teeth!

Thanks for your article,

Mara

Dear editor,

I am very careful with my money I get from welfare. I don't drink, or smoke, or do drugs. My idea of splurging is to spend a few dollars on stamps, envelopes and writing paper. Then, when I run out of food money I regret having 'splurged' on 'luxury' items. I didn't buy shampoo or laundry detergent this month even though I ran out of both. I still ran out of food money.

I collect returnable containers for the refund at the store. I roll pennies and nickels and take them to the bank.

The food banks and soup kitchens are not very helpful because I have health problems for which I need special veggie food. The people serving food are often not understanding, however generous they are.

Robin Kingsley



Chaos of the Streets

My name is Red. I live on the streets. I see things you would not believe. Yet, it's all true. You have to be there, and see for yourself. Shit happens.

Now, I may be down and out (4 now) but I do know a couple of things. Victoria cops are a good bunch of guys and gals who would rather see you in a shelter than jail.

But my main concern is the fact that I am disappointed that one street person rips another one off. I've lost a lot of stuff. But 4 the kindness of their hearts I've been able to survive.

I know, I'm not the perfect person in the world, still I can help to the best of my ability. So, I hope that people will accept me as I am. No regrets, no shame. What U see is what U get. Take a picture, it lasts longer.

Red.

P.S. Spare change please!



If the Son of God were to come back to the planet earth, which of the ABC gods would he choose to represent?

- A: Allah;
B: Buddha; or,
C: Creator of all this chaos.

If the Son of God were put to trial what evidence would he produce for the judge if the judge were an audience? This is a little taste of a concept I dreamt up for One Son to play called the 'ABC gods'.

My name is Deer-O-Che (the last three letters are pronounced as 'key'). I am One Son's alter ego and we have written a play that is going to shake this world to its core.

One Son grew up in a family of poverty and they were always struggling to keep their heads above water. One Son's mother was a deeply religious person and to this day counts every blessing received from a very small pension. Unlike One Son's mother, his father was a Frenchmen who loved to cook up a storm and drink his problems away. Eventually One Son's father became a street person who helped feed the less fortunate until the day he died, Feb 16/05.

Due to his father's love of the genie in the bottle, One Son took to the sea as an OS (Ordinary Seaman) at the tender age of sixteen to help pay the rent and buy the necessities of life for his sibling. In time his ranking was upgraded to AB, (Able Bodied) seaman, and he was usually the captain's first choice as helmsmen when entering a difficult port of passage. One Son learned quickly to predict the unseen forces of the sea by reading the signs.

One day while on shore leave, One Son was driving home after an enjoyable evening in an Iranian teahouse, when out of the corner of his eye he saw another sign and predicted someone was in trouble. A cab driver had just been robbed and assaulted by two robbers, one of whom was then being chased by the cabbie. One Son turned his car around and drove in front of the robber who was then caught by the cab driver.

The cab driver thanked One Son but as One Son prepared to go back to his car, (this is a true story) the second robber who had been hiding behind a car sprang forth and bit One Son's nose off. As One Son looked to the ground he could see his nose being sprayed with the blood shooting from his own face. One Son then screamed the words, 'Mother of God, Great Mother of all Gods anti to hope and hell what have I, Ur One Son, done to cause this deer spell?'

Just then the robber came at One Son again but One Son remembered the gift he received at the Iranian teahouse. He decided to cut his losses and pulled out the knife, which kept the robber at bay. Shortly after that, the police and EMS arrived. They unfortunately came to the wrong conclusion as One Son overheard them say, 'Yeah, it's two drunks fighting'.

One Son knew that the reason his nose was not iced immediately upon their arrival was because of the quick assumption made by the EMS and Police. When the cab driver arrived back at the scene he explained to the police that One Son was actually a Good Samaritan.

One Son waited for forty minutes in the back of the EMS vehicle when he finally snapped, kicked open the back doors and shouted, 'Give me my &*@#ing car keys. I'll drive myself to the hospital!' One Son jumped from the van but when he hit the ground the world started spinning out of control so fast he could not stand anymore. When One Son opened his eyes he was on all fours like a dog. Retching the bile of an out of control world, his eyes caught a glimpse of the white gloved hands and heard someone say, 'It will be all right. We are leaving now.'

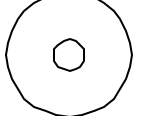
For the next three days and nights while in the hospital, One Son could smell things were not right: his nose was losing the will to fight. His fear subsided each night while he dreamt, as the hands of gods used sign language to relay soothing messages that everything would be all



Deer God I AM
November 1st
7 pm
Quw'utsun Ctr,
Duncan

Now One Son Entertainment presents Deer God I AM

Sun



Earth



Asteroid



SEA

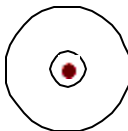
Target

Earth

Compass

TEC

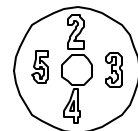
A



A:1 2 3

B:2 3 1

B



C:3 1 2

D:2 3 5

C



E:2 1 4 3

F:4 1 5 2

CAB

G:3 2 1 4

H:2 1 5

I:4 1 2

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 5 4 3 2 1
AD-ANAC : CANADA

A:1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
1:SUM ART AD SON

B:1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
2:MUSE ADD ART SON

C:1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 15 17 19
3:I MELD SOME SUN CHARTAD

D:1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 14 15 17 19
4:O CANADA US SMART DEER'S

E:1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
5:HEAR CODES

A1:11 10 9 6 5 4 8 7 3 2 1

B2:6 4 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 5 1 2 3

C3:2 1 13 14 3 4 5 9 12 7 6
17 16 15 19 18 8 11 10

D4:2 16 3 10 5 18 6 17 4 1 9
14 13 7 15 12 11 8 19

E5:7 2 4 6 3 5 1 8 9
7 2 8 4 5 1 3 6 9

right. On the fourth day a doctor entered the room and said, 'your nose is dead but do not dread. We have a thread of hope! We can make you a new nose.' And so they did by taking the cartilage from One Son's ear, shaping it into a nose and placing it under the skin of his temple. Both the doctor and One Son prayed it would meld and adhere to the flesh of the temple, which it did.

Six years and nine operations later One Son now has a new nose but that is not the end of the story. The dreams, the dreams, the dreams always reappeared at night: the hands of gods, using sign language, would emit an EMS message, which stood for Earth Magnetic Symbols. The lessons came hard to One Son for no blessing could One Son see in his new nose. One night, while dreaming, the hands drew two circles on the wall: one big and one small. The EM Symbols 'N', 'E', 'W', 'S' were drawn around the small, inner circle.

Using sign language because he was always deaf in his dreams, One Son signed the words, 'What NEWS?' The godly hands responded by showing One Son that they could spell 'One' using the inner circle and the letters (EM Symbols) surrounding it. One Son thought to himself, 'Wow, a holy compass that can spell one word: one'. As if the hands could read his mind, they began spelling more words from the holy compass; so many words it nearly blew One Son's mind. The message left on the wall to the right of the holy compass was as clear as a ship's bell.

Before the end of this dream, the hands slowly pointed to the EMS sign 'NOE'. One Son, perplexed, signed back, 'this is NO word, NOE'. The hands began to shake their fists up and down, which by the way, all deaf people know to mean 'yes'. One Son awoke from his dream, turned on his computer and went to dictionary.com. He looked up the word 'NOE' from his dream and found the first captain to ever sail through a natural disaster that left the world covered in one sea.

One Son began to feel sick to his stomach from the thought of the hidden messages in the dreams so he copied out on paper that which he had seen in the dreams. The first word that One Son was able to encode was 'ENO' which settled his tummy. Wondering if the words had hidden meanings in other languages, he turned to the computer to search for definitions. Latin was a hit, defining ENO as 'to swim out, escape by swimming, to fly away.

One Son realized that the holy compass had much more to say so he began to play with the words found in the compass. He categorized each EMS word and coded each letter with numbers for safekeeping. For example, '1' stands for the letter 'O' which is the center of the holy compass; 2 stands for North; 3 equals East; 4 is equal to South; and 5 is West. So in the reality of the compass, 1-2-3 spells one.

He ran each word he found through the ELF dictionary: English, French and Latin. One Son became wiser with the passing of each word. For example, the numbers '214' represent 'NOS'. 'NOS' is defined as: ego; I; I am; special senses; uses; and me, alter ego; my second self.

Now this is where I come into One Son's mind and his dreams: showing him what I want him to see in due time. I know what you are thinking I am D: a little Devil and certainly that is an option.

**The play will be on stage November 1st 7pm
in the Quw'utsun Cultural & Conference center theater in Duncan BC.**

As there are only ninety-three seats still available no advanced tickets will be sold until show time, unless you can crack the five codes listed below AD-ANAC CANADA, which will lead you right to me.

P.S. In 1822 Jean-Francois Champollion was the first man to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs. The first code he cracked was two circles: one big one and one small melded together, he called it Ra. Dictionary. Calm, my friends, Thank-you Deer Gods I Am One Son.

Everyone Counts

Since the Liberal social spending cuts, I have seen many more homeless people sleeping in Harris Green, a Fernwood park across the street from me. Numbers have risen from an occasional 2 or 3 people per week, to sometimes 15-20 per night.

Poor social conditions are behind much of this homelessness: child and sexual abuse, unaffordable housing, lack of welfare eligibility, criminalization of drug consumption and sales and more psychiatric survivors without adequate resources.

The police have responded by criminalizing the homeless presence thus creating a heightened sense of alarm rather than an atmosphere of restored peace. Residents indoors and out have been routinely awoken by bull horns, even at 2 AM, with messages to “move along.” Sirens, driving up right onto the grassy areas of the park, flashing lights, legs braced, black gloves donned, guns at the ready, all give a sense of violence incongruent with the circumstances.

A lone fellow was asleep one morning at seven o'clock. Three marked cars were driven onto the lawn emergency style, and then aimed at the sleeping figure. The police used a bull horn to wake him and then stood there, legs braced as if to lunge or shoot, tugging at their black gloves – fear in the air. There was no emergency, no crime. Just policy and procedure. After the involuntary subject of so much attention had righted his shopping cart, he headed on his way and the police left. I went out in my night clothes to ask him how he felt about all this. The man told me dryly that even after twelve years on the street, he was still not used to waking up that way. Making a spectacle of people causes injury to the dignity of the apprehended *and* the apprehenders.

Last spring I attended the documentary *Crisis Call* by Laura Sky. It examines how police are increasingly forced to assume the responsibilities of front line healthcare workers. The documentary is respectful and balanced toward the positions both police and ‘psychiatric survivors’ find themselves in. Each is fearful of the other. An enactment of the correct way for police to take down a suicidal woman is presented for the cameras. It alarmingly illustrates just how much work needs to be done to change the current system. It is truly a bizarre and archaic way to treat a person already in distress. Monty Python films came to mind.

If we are to have more humane police/community relations, we must lobby city councilors to investigate police procedures and make civil rights and responsibilities the basis for all good policing policy. We must ensure the prevention of American style paramilitary tactics that increase risk of injury to both citizens and the police. Instead we need to increase funding for research and adequate officer training to work in these unique circumstances when and if it is even necessary.

If we had Guaranteed Livable Income, affordable housing and government operated drug distribution programs, policing could be applied to more pressing matters.

It is my belief sound public policy is based on respect for the inherent worth of every citizen and requires care to protect the dignity of each person.

By Elsi Yegwreilski



A short history of Anarchism, Part 2, by Jim Hedger

Emma Goldman

At the turn of the century in the United States, anarchist suffragist Emma Goldman was lecturing, agitating and finding herself frequently thrown in jail. Goldman was already known to American authorities for her defense of her lover, Alexander Berkman who attempted to assassinate millionaire steel magnate Harry James Frisk in 1892.

This was a time of great economic and political turmoil in the United States. A small cabal of industrialists had formed virtually unimpeded monopolies over the previous thirty years in America's bid to build the railroads. The already present gap between the investor class and the working class was widening and starting to shape the Darwinist social fabric we are familiar with today. As the gap between rich and poor widened, workers gathered to organize in meeting halls, churches, coffee houses, beer parlours and at demonstrations.

In a speech to unemployed workers in New York in 1893, Goldman urged them to "*Ask for work. If they do not give you work, ask for bread. If they do not give you work or bread, take bread.*" She was sentenced to one year in prison for inciting a riot.

Goldman became deeply involved in the early feminist movement, the labour movement and later the anti-war movement. In an attempt to discredit the anarchist and growing labour movements, Goldman was linked to the assassination of President McKinley in 1901. The media had a field day. Though she was held for several weeks of intense questioning, she was released along with nine others due to a lack of evidence. In 1916, she was arrested for distributing information on birth control. A year later, she was arrested for trying to disrupt the draft. Active in the No Conscription League, Goldman organized rallies against American participation in World War 1. She was imprisoned for two years and subsequently deported to her native Russia. At her deportation hearings, J. Edgar Hoover called her “the most dangerous anarchist in America”.

It was in Russia that Goldman witnessed the repression of state run hierarchies first hand. At first she was willing to support the Bolsheviks but after seeing troops used to suppress workers, she repudiated violence except in self-defense. She died in Toronto in 1940. Four years before her death, Goldman joined thousands of anarchists in the heroic defense of the Spanish Republic in the Spanish Civil War.

Know Drugs...Not No Drugs

The kids have all gone back to school and it's time for parents and teachers to learn an important lesson: Be honest and thorough when discussing drugs with your children. A few years ago Monday Magazine ran a little piece on the ineffectiveness of the American-based anti-drug program, D.A.R.E.

Apparently "graduates" of this course were unable to define or even identify what drugs were. The children only seemed to know that drugs are bad...don't do drugs.

Well folks, it's not the simple. First of all, not all drugs are bad. Lots of drugs save lives. Diabetics and asthmatics, for example, rely on drugs for survival. Memorizing the D.A.R.E. mantra does nothing to explain the legitimate use of medications. Mixed messages serve only to confuse young people. Secondly, we have to expand our definition of what a drug actually is. Most dictionaries will state something like: "...any chemical compound or biological substance intended for use in the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of disease..." (Funk & Wagnell's Cdn. College Dictionary,'88). But as a psychology student at UVic I learned that any substance which alters a person physiologically or psychologically should be considered a drug. Under this definition not only do we have alcohol, tobacco and coffee, serious "drugs" that harm the human body and mind, but also seemingly innocuous things like sugar and salt.

So what have we learned so far? That not all drugs are bad and that we ingest harmful substances which we don't view as drugs. These are basic facts we should share with our children. Anti-drug literature tends to make sweeping generalizations regarding illicit drug usage and there is one huge problem with this: marijuana...the supposed "gateway" drug.

Oh please people...get with the program! Anyone still embracing the notion that marijuana usage leads to heroin addiction, criminal behavior and family breakdown should do a little research and learn the truth about this safe, natural, therapeutic herb. By lumping pot together with such destructive street drugs as crystal meth, crack and ecstasy we are creating more problems than the anti-drug campaign can solve.

When kids discover we've been lying to them about pot (and they will) they'll assume we are lying to them about crystal meth too. The youth today are not stupid and we do them a harmful disservice by filling their heads with misinformation and American anti-pot propaganda.

"Marijuana is one of the safest, therapeutically active substances known to man," (F. Young, administrartive law judge, U.S.D.E.A., '88). It is not manufactured in a lab by criminals pretending to be chemists using a barrage of toxic ingredients. Marijuana is from Mother Nature and only needs nutrient-rich soil and plenty of sunshine (though due to its prohibition, much pot is grown indoors with special lights). Marijuana provides a natural remedy in the treatment of a myriad of conditions. It possesses no addictive properties or harmful side effects. Most informed Canadians now accept the well-documented reality of marijuana: its therapeutic qualities; its relatively benign nature; its effective longevity in human usage (about 5,000). Really, the only problem with marijuana is its prohibition.

I am certainly not suggesting the use of marijuana by minors. But the reality is children are curious and vulnerable to peer pressure. My child grew up knowing that many adults smoked pot, a natural herb. She also knew that tobacco was deadly. I never smoked cigarettes or let others do so around her. We had the drug talk early and the message was clear: street drugs are created by addicts and criminals and subsequently have no standards of potency or ingredients. I explained that people have different brain & body chemistries so even though your best friend tried ecstasy, had a great time and survived, that is no guarantee that you will. Street drugs can kill you, even with that first, experimental dosage.

When discussing pot, I insisted that her first time be at home with me. Being asthmatic and effected by smoke in general, there was cause for concern. (Although asthma is one of the conditions marijuana helps as THC has both expectorant and bronchidialator properties). Moderation, quality control and adult supervision made this youthful right of passage a safe one.

At 25 my daughter seems fairly indifferent to pot and has no interest in pill-popping or experimenting with street drugs. Establishing open lines of communication, providing a good example and instilling a respect for life all contributed to her successful journey into adulthood.

We will never prevent kids from experimenting with illicit drugs but open, honest and thorough dialogue about the risks and alternative choices will help reduce the tragedies. I strongly advise parents of minors to investigate the drug awareness programs being taught in schools. Are they truthful, informative and thorough? If they're not, take the necessary steps to do right by your children. And please, please stop perpetuating the myth of marijuana. It is so not part of the solution.

by cyann ray

The Spanish Civil War

The Spanish Civil War was a precursor to the Second World War as a battle between freedom and fascism. Thousands of anarchists from across Europe went to Spain to support the republican government against a military uprising led by General Franco and supported by Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Italy. 1448 Canadians served in the famed Mackenzie Papineau Battalion, even though the government of the time forbade enlistment.

During the Civil War, anarchists controlled the areas of Aragon and Catalonia. A social revolution took place in which land and industry was collectivized under the control of local councils or collectives. Despite a lack of resources, the collectives thrived, even though both the fascists they were fighting and the communists who were supposed to be their allies opposed them. The opposition posed by communist allies led to the disastrous May Days of 1937 where thousands of anarchist and communist anti-fascist fighters fought each other for control of Barcelona. Thus ended that phase of the anarchist revolution in Spain. Today, both Aragon and Catalonia support a growing number of anarchist collectives and cooperatives.

Sources:

California Alumni Association newsletter (A_conversation_with_Candace_Falk.asp)
http://www.alumni.berkeley.edu/Alumni/Cal_Monthly/April_2003/
Emma Goldman, The Anarchist Guest
<http://archives.lists.indymedia.org/imc-dc/2001-April/000822.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Goldman

A Guide to Your Rights by David Eby

Excerpted from www.bccla.org - © B.C. Civil Liberties Association, 2003
It is not intended that this should replace legal advice from a qualified lawyer.

The police are responsible for enforcing the law. While they are deserving of respect and assistance, they must also respect your legal rights. If you need specific legal advice, talk to a lawyer.

The Police and Arrest

There are three reasons why a police officer would stop someone walking down the street. You have different rights in each situation.

Reason #1 – The Police are Just Making Conversation

Police officers can use polite conversation to find a reason to hold you or arrest you. If you don't like the questions the police are asking, ask: "Am I free to go?" If the answer is yes, you can leave.

Reason #2 – The Police are Investigating You (Detention)

If you ask if you are free to go and the police officer says no, you have the right to be told why you are being detained. Remember the reason. Get the badge number or name of the police officer.

If you have not been arrested, but are being held against your will, remember to:

- * Ask why you are being held.
- * Get the badge number or name of the police officer.
- * Stay silent and tell the police you are staying silent (if you feel safe doing so). You may, if you have not committed any crime, wish to explain what you were doing that made the police suspicious. Sometimes an explanation can end a police interaction more quickly.
- * Tell the police if you have needles with you before they search you. They'll probably find them anyway, and you don't want to accidentally hurt a police officer.

Reason #3 – The Police are Arresting You

You will know if you are under arrest because a police officer has said you are under arrest, or somehow indicated you are not free to go by physically holding you. If you are under arrest, and the police ask, you must tell them your name and address. The police must tell you why you are being arrested unless the reason is obvious – remember what they say so you can tell your lawyer. The arresting officer may release you right away with an "appearance notice" (a sheet of paper that tells you where and when to show up for court) if she believes that you will show up for court, not break any more laws, and she is sure she knows who you are.

When You are Arrested

- * The police can do a full search of you and your personal property.
- * You may be kept in jail for up to 24 hours before appearing before a judge or justice of the peace.
- * Any pulling, kicking, punching, running or physical action to avoid arrest could result in more charges. Going limp does not count as resistance.

The police are allowed to use only as much force as is necessary to arrest you or ensure that the situation is safe. Additional force is considered "excessive" force.

- * The police may keep asking questions, but you don't have to answer them. Tell the police you want to remain silent and you want to speak to a lawyer.
- * Giving a fake name or address could result in more charges.

There are three types of offences:

- * Summary Offences: The least serious, they generally have lower penalties.
- * Hybrid Offences: Crown counsel can choose whether the offence is a summary or indictable offence depending on the situation.
- * Indictable Offences: The most serious offences. They have much higher penalties. For hybrid and summary offences, a police officer must release you immediately after arrest with an appearance notice unless she: (a) can't identify you; (b) needs to preserve the evidence of your crime; (c) needs to stop you from committing the crime or repeating it; or (d) has reasonable grounds to believe you won't come to court.

Reasons for Arrest

The law says the police must have a reason for arresting you. You can only be arrested by the police if:

- * A police officer sees you committing a criminal offence.
- * A police officer has reasonable grounds to believe you have committed or are about to commit an indictable or hybrid offence.
- * You have broken any law (including provincial laws or city bylaws) and you won't tell police who you are and where you live.
- * There is a warrant for your arrest.
- * A police officer has a reason to think you have a mental disorder and are dangerous.
- * You have breached the peace or are about to breach the peace.
- * You are drunk or high in public.
- * A police officer has a reason to think you are a terrorist about to commit a terrorist act.



Arrest Warrants

A warrant is a piece of paper that a judge uses to allow the police to do something. Arrest warrants order the police to arrest a specific person. If the police have a warrant for your arrest, ask to see it. You have the right to see the warrant as soon as possible. Make sure the warrant is actually for you.

The Mental Health Act

Under the Mental Health Act, police officers can use force to take you to a hospital for an exam by a doctor if they think that you are acting in a way that is dangerous to yourself or other people, and you seem to have a mental disorder that needs treatment. You can request a review of your detention. Ask staff members at the hospital for the review panel request form. You can also contact the Mental Health Law Program for legal information and advice.

Breach of the Peace

The police can arrest you for breaching the peace. Breaching the peace means you are causing a disturbance that involves some potential for violence. There is no specific offence of breaching the peace. Police must release you after they arrest you unless they are going to charge you for breaking another law.

Public Intoxication

Public areas are areas where anyone can go. They include parks, beaches and streets, as well as private places where the public are welcome, such as bars, restaurants and malls. If you are in a public area and you are intoxicated, the police can arrest you. Intoxicated means that you are so drunk or high that you are unable to care for yourself, a danger to yourself or others, or you are causing a disturbance. You must be released when you are sober.

Identifying Yourself to Police

You only have to give police your name and address if:

- * You are under arrest.
- * You are driving a car. Passengers in the car do not have to give the police their names or addresses.
- * You have allegedly broken a law (including a criminal law, a provincial law or a city bylaw).
- * What to say to police
 - * Do you want to leave? Ask: "Am I free to go?" If yes, then go. If you are not free to go, ask: "Am I under arrest?" If yes, ask why.
 - * If you are under arrest, say: "I want to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer." Give your name and address if the police ask. Get the badge number.
 - * If you are not under arrest, but you can't leave, ask why. Get the badge #.

Personal Searches

Most searches happen because people tell the police it is okay to search them. You have the right to say no and the police can't legally threaten you or force you. If you don't give permission, the only times the police can search you or your things are when:

- * The police have a reasonable belief (a good reason to believe) that you are carrying drugs, a weapon or open alcohol.
- * The police have detained you to ask you questions. If you are detained, they may only do a frisk or pat-down search for weapons you could use to hurt them or yourself. They may also look in your bags. They cannot search for needle marks or drugs.
- * The police have arrested you. If you are arrested, the police can do a full search of your body (not a strip search – unless they have a good reason) and personal possessions.

Seizing Property

The police can only take your property if it is somehow connected to a crime. If you have paid for your property with money you got from crime, or you have used it when you were committing a crime, or owning the property itself is a crime, the police can take it. They can also take property that might give them

evidence. Police can seize alcohol from you if you are drinking in public, and you are not in a licensed bar or restaurant. Police may also seize unopened alcohol if it is going to be used for an unlawful purpose.

Police Accountability

The police must obey the law. If they act improperly, you can sue them in a civil lawsuit, and you can file a complaint that may result in criminal charges against the police officer. Civil lawsuits are expensive, and you will probably need a lawyer. Filing complaints is free.

How to file a police complaint:

- * For complaints against local police officers anywhere in BC call the Office of Police Complaint Commissioner at 604-660-2385, or call Enquiry BC at 1-800-663-7867 and ask them to

transfer your call to the Office of Police Complaint Commissioner.

- * Contact the BCCLA at (604) 687-2919 for a police complaint brochure.
- * Call the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP at 604-501-4080 or 1-800-665-6878.

community calendar

Mondays	Movie Monday by donation 595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mmm
Alt Mondays	Victoria Peace Coalition - dolcla@islandnet.com
Alt. Mondays	Communities Solidarity Coalition - www.communities-solidarity.org , info@communities-solidarity.org
First Tuesdays	Documentary, Debate, Democracy! Open Cinema 7pm, Hermann's (753 View Street) Info: www.opencinema.ca , opencinema@shaw.ca
Tuesdays	Victoria Bluegrass Association Jams 1620 Fernwood, Orange Hall, 7:30 pm 472-6483 free for listeners, \$2 for players - all levels
Tuesdays	Hand Drumming Drop-in, \$10, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies. Beg: 7-8 pm, Adv: 8:15-9:15 pm Info 386-1054 Drums provided.
Wednesdays	Falun Gong faluninfo.net . Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone Fernwood. Victoria. 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)386-8805 free
Wednesdays	Peace Vigils at the Legislature - 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Peace Ambassadors needed to greet inernational visitors! Imagine: War Never Again
Wednesdays	SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers) except welfare day, 7:00-9:00 pm, 1947 Cook St. \$3 bus fare reimbursed
Wednesdays	Café Spirituality Open Satsang: discussion, sharing, contemplation. 7 pm, JB Coffee & Books, 143 Menzies By donation or buy a coffee.
Fridays	Coffeehouse discussion group 7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay 7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com
Fourth Fridays	Café Simpatico , Activist coffeehouse,1923 Fernwood. Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org
Saturdays	Plastic Recycling - soft & hard plastics: styrofoam blocks & chips, plastic bags, and rigid plastics. Info: 382-4604. www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Saturdays	Tour of Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood Forest, Ladysmith. Info: Jay, 250-245-5540 Directions: www.ecoforestry.ca/WildwoodMap.htm
Sat & Sun	Falun Gong faluninfo.net 10-noon, Beacon Hill Pk, across from petting zoo, all winter. 386-8805 free
Alt. Sundays	Sierra Club Nature Outings - Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Sundays	Victoria Folk Music Society 7:30pm, Norway House, 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs.
Sundays	Immigrant/Refugee Youth Group & Buddy Volunteers ICA-930 Balmoral, 1-3 pm Info: Suki-885-1310 or youth@icavictoria.org
Monthly	Faith in Action -a multi-faith coalition to put more heart into BC's income assistance. www.bcfaithinaction.ca
Monthly	Vancouver Island Vegetarian Associaton (VIVA) Potlucks www.islandveg.com
Monthly	PAPER BUYING CLUB: Invest in a green future with 100% post consumer recycled paper. Info: www.rfu.org or 1-800-567-4055.
All month	CRD Parks outings and explorations for all ages. 478-3344 www.crd.bc.ca/parks/brochure2.htm
Ongoing	Auditions for Spilt Milk Improv Comedy Troupe Info: (250) 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com , www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
3rd wk in Oct	Quantum Healing classes , life transforming, begin, for five weeks. Info: 598-4303 or celestialleo@hotmail.com
To Dec 23rd	Wild Waters, Sacred Spaces Maltwood Museum & Art Gallery www.cpawsyukon.org/three-rivers maltpub@maltwood.uvic.ca (250) 721-6562
Thru October	Solar Energy International Workshops - Washington Info: sei@solarenergy.org , www.solarenergy.org
Sat Oct 1st	Composting Workshop 11am-1pm, free, 1216 North Park St, 386-WORM
Oct 1-2nd	Walbran Campout Info: wildernesscommitteevictoria.org or (250) 388-9292.
Sat Oct 1st	Barn Dance—fundraiser for Haliburton Community Organic Farm & LLAFF (Linking Land & Future Farmers) Market Sq, Tics: 658-0758
Oct 1st & 2nd	PUENTE Theatre workshops James Bay New Horizons Society, 234 Menzies Street www.puentetheatre.ca
Sun Oct 2nd	7th Annual Salt Spring Island Apple Festival 9-5 pm Info: www.saltspringmarket.com/apples
Mon Oct 3rd	Vegan: The New Ethics of Eating and Meat Market - 7 pm, UVic Fraser 157 Info: www.law.uvic.ca/saldf .
Mon Oct 3rd	Abstracts & scholarship apps due for 2006 Int'l Conf. on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm—Vancouver Info: www.harmreduction2006.ca
Mon Oct 3rd	Student Animal Legal Defense Fund presents Erik Marcus, publisher of Vegan.com 7 pm, UVic Fraser 157 Info: www.law.uvic.ca/saldf
Mon Oct 3rd	Green Building Grant Program application due Info: www.realestatefoundation.com/greenbuilding.html
Tues Oct 4th	Tomson Highway, public reading , 7:30 pm, P.T. Young Recital Hall, UVic, free
Tues Oct 4th	The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror— new documentary, 7 pm, Hermann's Info: www.theoilfactor.com , 882-7441, mleith@islandnet.com
Wed Oct 5th	Victoria Social Economy Forum James Bay, 205 Simcoe St. 9-5 pm Info: 250.213.2324 jaie.skalin@telus.net
Wed Oct 5th	Greater Victoria Police Victim Services Information Session, 7 to 8:30 pm, Victoria Police station Info: http://www.gvpvs.org
Thurs Oct 6th	Sacred Circle Dance Fernwood Community Centre 7-9 PM, by donation Info: Betsy 592-2848 or Maureen 642-3546
Thurs Oct 6th	Brand Your Identity-Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) Online Workshop Info: training@impacs.org , www.impacs.org
Sun Oct 9th	Wilderness Adventure to Mt. Maguire 10am-3pm Info: www.sierraclub.ca/bc , 250-386-5255 ext.241
Oct 9-14th	The Great Unfolding: Science, Spirit and Evolution 5-day wkshop w/ Guy Dauncey & Julia Menard Hollyhock, Cortes Island. www.hollyhock.ca
Mon Oct 10th	Ethics Buying Club Due date for orders to be picked up Oct 27 th Info: www.ethicscoop.ca
Tues Oct 11th	Polling and focus group know-how - Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) Online Workshop Info: www.impacs.org
Weds Oct 12th	Greater Victoria Police Victim Services Information Session 7-8:30 pm, Saanich Police station Info: http://www.gvpvs.org
Oct 13-15th	Imagining Public Policy to Meet Women's Economic Security Needs - Vancouver Info: rwchair@sfu.ca or www.policyalternatives.ca
Fri Oct 14th	Last day to vote for the \$1 Million Vancity' Award - vancity.com/award (Our Place is the new Open Door/Upper Room complex)
Sat Oct. 15th	Aboriginal Policy and Research Dialogue Conference , submissions due Info: www.cnpr.ca
Sat Oct 15th	Mobilization for Vancouver Island's Public Forests-Rally at the Leg. Info: www.wildernesscommitteevictoria.org , 388-9292, 651 Johnson
Sat Oct 15th	Xchanges submission due date Info: www.xchangesgallery.org or gallery@xchangesgallery.org
Sun Oct 16th	Cut-a-thon at Rapunzel Hair and Body Care for the Men's Trauma Centre 11 am to 4 pm
Mon Oct 17th	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Victoria: Hide & Go Homeless-film & speakers UVic Grad Student Lounge 7 pm Free
Tues Oct 18th	How to Write a Press Release-Inst for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) Online Wkshp Info: 416-597-1310, ext. 2, www.impacs.org
Tues Oct 18th	Greater Victoria Police Victim Services Information Session, 7 to 8:30 pm, Victoria Police station Info: http://www.gvpvs.org
Thurs Oct 20th	How to Write and Place an Op-Ed Piece-Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) Online Workshop Info: www.impacs.org
Oct 20-22nd	Brave New World? Understanding Global Security Challenges, Reforming National Security Practices Montréal Info: www.casis.ca
Oct 20-31st	H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds" at Craigdarroch Castle Info: www.members.shaw.ca/gigglingiguanaprods , Advance tics—592-5323
Oct 21-23rd	Earth(ling) - A Festival - Youth, Arts, Activism Vancouver Info: www.earthproject.ca
Oct 21—23rd	Human Rights Observer Training near Sooke, Building Bridges Human Rights Project Info: rosaliegoldstein@shaw.ca
Oct 21-31st	Olive Picking - Palestine 2005 Info: www.ej-ymca.org , olivetree@jai-pal.org or www.atg.ps , info@atg.ps
Sun Oct 23rd	Seasons With Birds -at Rithet's Bog. 10am Info: www.sierraclub.ca/bc , 250-386-5255 ext.241
Oct 22-26th	Otesha Cycling Tour delivering environmental education programming at middle and highschoools. Info: www.otesha.ca or bctour@otesha.ca
Tues Oct 25th	Writing for the Web - Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) Online Workshop Info: training@impacs.org , www.impacs.org
Weds Oct 26th	The Future of Food - Film Harry Hickman Building, Rm 105, 7 pm \$3-5 721-8629
Weds Oct 26th	Worm Composting Workshop UVic SUB b110b, 2 pm free
Oct 26—28th	Aboriginal Rights: Negotiating Strategies & Agreements Delta Ocean Point Victoria Info: www.uvcs.uvic.ca/abor
Thurs Oct 27th	Website Facelift - Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) Online Workshop Info: training@impacs.org , www.impacs.org
Oct 28 & 29th	Making Poverty History-CoDevelopment Canada 20th Anniversary Conf. Vancouver Info: www.codev.org , 604-708-1495, ext 117
Oct 30-Nov 1	Continental Summit of Indigenous Peoples & Organizations , Argentina, cumbrecontinentalindigena@yahoo.com.ar , cjira01@yahoo.com.ar
Mon Oct 31st	Conference "Creating Resilient Communities" MEWS Ballroom Royal Roads University Info: 1-800-661-9055, 250-382-3420, rhoad@shaw.ca
Thurs Nov 3rd	Sacred Circle Dance 7-9 PM Glenairley Centre for Earth and Spirit in East Sooke Info: Betsy 592-2848 or Maureen 642-3546
Oct 31st—Nov 4th	Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation & Post-War Rebuilding, Reconciliation and Resolution www.transcend.org , training@transcend.org
Fri Nov 4th	Tall Trees and Grassroots Gala Roundhouse Community Centre , Van. Info: www.wildernesscommittee.org or 604 683 8220
Fri Nov 4th	Youth Line Art Show (tentative) Solstice Café
Mon Nov 7th	Ed Broadbent Addresses Victoria Chapter of Fair Vote Canada Info: orioncarrier@hotmail.com
Nov 7th—11th	Designing Peacebuilding Interventions and Conflict Transformation Programmes Info: www.transcend.org , training@transcend.org
Nov 10-Nov 13th	The Writers' Haven-Gabriola Workshop Info: http://mypage.uniserve.com/~writershaven
Nov 14-16th	BC Non-Profit Housing Association Conference , Vancouver Info: www.bcnpha.bc.ca/pages/conference.php
Nov 18-20th	School of Americas Watch - Converge on Fort Benning Georgia to challenge oppressive US foreign policy soaw.org
Mon Nov 19th	Learn, Share, Celebrate -conference on board development for Victoria's non-profit community . Info: www.unitedwayvictoria.bc.ca , 385-6708
Wed Nov 23rd	Celebration and Dialogue, Quality of Life CHALLENGE Info: www.qolchallenge.ca , communitycouncil.ca
Apr 30-May 4 '06	17th Int'l Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm - www.harmreduction2006.ca , 1 604 688 9655 ex. 2, info@harmreduction2006.ca
May 31-Jun 2 '06	Resist the Hemis pheria 2006 Summit-Winnipeg Summit planned by North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO- www.nascocorridor.com)
June 23-28 '06	World Peace Forum Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada Info: Web: www.worldpeaceforum.ca , admin@worldpeaceforum.ca

Food Banks and Meals

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 10am– 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
4-697 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V9B 2X2 phone: 474-4443
Tues, Weds: 10am – 3pm, Closed last week of month

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring clean plastic containers for bowls, bags for produce. <http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria>

FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH
Esquimalt United Church Hall, Lyall St., just past Admirals Rd.
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 12 noon – 1:15 pm

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX
C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually \$4 & \$2 /12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance
-Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS
9751-3rd st. Sidney, B.C., V8L 3A5 phone: 655-9222
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests.
Current cost of meals- \$6.00. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T, W, Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm
M, W, F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children.
Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

OPEN DOOR SOCIETY ~~CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS~~ 935 Pandora St., 385-2454

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712
9 am–12:30 pm, 1:30 pm–4:30 pm Mon–Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services.
Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for women and children, Weds and Fris, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)
2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday – Friday, 9 am – 3:30 pm
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.

SIKH TEMPLE
Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169.
Food bank open Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 am–noon, in church basement. (Closed Friday and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am–4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 4–5:30 pm
Meal pass costs \$26 a month, or \$1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - *where healthy eating is an act of community.* 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca, mlthomson@uniserve.com

First Metropolitan roast beef dinner - 932 Balmoral St
on the Friday before Welfare Wednesday, 5 pm

Gordy Dodd's Thanksgiving Dinner - Uncle Willie's. Free tickets available at the Mustard Seed, Blanshard Community Centre, or Upper Room.

Breakfast Club

First Saturday: Christ Church Cathedral, 912 Vancouver St., 7:45-9:30 am
coffee, tea, orange juice, eggs & hash browns, also ham

Second Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, ham

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, sausage

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Worker's' Union at St. Andrew's Hall, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396

Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 383-1951

Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408

Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 213-4444

Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 812-0490 Nov 1st-?, various locations

Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282

Hill House Women with children 479-3963

Sooke Transition House 642-2591 Women with or without children

Vic. Women's Transition House 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids

Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids

Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004

Margaret Laurence House 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

YWCA Women's Residence- 880 Courtney Street, 386-7511

Ritz Hotel- 710 Fort Street, 381-1868

Fairfield Hotel 710 Cormorant St., 386-1621

York Hotel 711 Johnson Street, 385-2544

Douglas Hotel 1450 Douglas Street, 383-4157

Ocean Island Backpackers 791 Pandora Avenue 385-1788

Turtle Refuge Backpackers 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471

Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366,www.humanx.org.

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities) 301- 3440
Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca

Cap. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities)
623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing, ie: Cool Aid-www.coolaid.org) 826 Cormorant 356-2548

M'Akola Housing Society 384-1423

Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 385-2131

Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 356-2555

Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/

Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society #501-620 View, 384-3434

Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List www.bchousing.org/Housing

Brown Bros. Property Management www.brownbros.com

BC Co-Operative Housing www.chf.bc.ca/

Camosun Off Campus Housing List www.ccss.camosun.bc.ca

David Burr Property Management www.davidburr.com/

UVic Off Campus Housing www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/search.htm

Helpful Housing Hints:

1. Add your name to the BC Housing list.
2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry.
3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M'Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list.

Some places to call for help

Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 228-1250 Quadra, 387-5077

AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366

Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 383-9151

Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)

Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 385-1466

Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth): 383-1977

Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 480-1342

Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232

Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 595-8619

Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 384-3396

Soc. of Living Intravenous Drugusers: 7-9 pm Wednesdays, 1947 Cook

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #415 - 620 View Street 361-3521

Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 610 Johnson Street, 384-3211

Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444

Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 480-1342

Bodhi’s Path ... a serial ... episode VII



Robert Lighthart Jones is a universalist Friend who explores the many ways beings express the great dance of life of which we are but a small part. Robert invites reaction and storyline suggestions c/o streetnewz@islandnet.com.

The story so far ...

Bodhi Jensen, a lay Buddhist Monk, moves into the main floor of a big A-frame owned by the irascible Albert Carlson. When Albert’s long term lover Freyja returns, things get better. Then, out of nowhere, Loki arrives and Albert learns that he is a father.

“Who hires fourteen year olds?”

“Guess you’ll have to find out won’t you, Loki? Where are you staying?”

“With you?”

“This is a co-op... that means contributing to it and if you’re prepared to home school and work at something,

just maybe we’ll see if we can accommodate you....” She was being a tad too polite and Loki could see this was going to get very messy.

Albert was standing in the doorway in a battered old bath robe that barely reached the top of his long thighs. He was drying his hair. On his face was a chilly scowl that they knew meant don’t cross him. Bodhi looked up and held up Albert’s big coffee cup. Albert nodded. His eyes raked the small group. Then he turned back to Loki.

“Why do I get the feeling I’m not going to like what you are about to tell me?” There was a certain menace in his tone. Bodhi passed him his coffee. Albert took it with a grateful nod sitting down on the bottom of the stairs. “Hell, let’s get it over with so I can tell you about my day.. since no one asked...”

“Maybe I should be the one to explain, Loki.” Freyja sat down next to Albert on the step. “You remember after we had our last blow up, we were going off in our different directions with a lot of unfinished business? Well Loki is one of those. Albert, meet your son, Loki. He has just got thrown out of his latest boarding school.”

“Do you see any room in here for another body ? Looks to me like we’re full up. How do you know he’s my kid?”

“Take a good hard look at his face... it is yours before you beat the shit out of it...before you started to grow hair on it and engraved worry on it with your undertaker’s scowl...”

“ Okay, okay! Back off woman...I guess you’re right. I’m just pissed at you that you kept me in the dark. It might have been kind of good to have seen him grow and hell, I don’t know ... maybe I could have shown him how to ride his first two wheeler... or how tah catch and throw ball ... You into that stuff kid?”

“Don’t get to ride a lot of bikes in boarding schools, I’m afraid ... but yah, I play some sports ... you know like soccer and I woulda tried out for the basket ball team if things hadn’t...” Loki shrugged and ducked his head. Suddenly he looked very young and appealingly vulnerable to Albert.

“I tried out for basket ball in my junior year but I was too slow and my mind hadn’t caught up with my body. Drove the coaches nuts. I’d grown about a foot that year so I was really awkward and clumsy. Awful time. Suddenly a really shy guy already was sticking out like a sore thumb head and shoulders taller getting called ‘Lurch’ after the butler on the Adams Family. Um, sorry I didn’t intend ... to speechify or lecture. Anyway, come over here kid and get a long belated big sloppy hug of welcome to the family....”

Loki was scooped into Albert’s arms and melted into his belly...Bodhi felt himself misting over a bit. Group hugs made him cry. Embarrassing as hell but but well...what are you gonna do. Both he and Freyja surrendered to the moment.

Georgia was standing in the doorway watching the proceedings clutching to bags of fresh garden produce. She asked if this was a private moment. There was a deep infectious chuckle emanating from the huddle

“Nope ... jump in the water’s fine.” Even curmudgeonly Wotan tried to nose in between legs to be part of it ... Awe shucks...

To be continued

CitizenSHIFT is an independent, socially active, and nationally representative web magazine, that gives activists, organizations, and socially conscious media producers a forum for watching, listening, reading, and interacting with the issues that Canadians are dealing with, that may not have representation in the mainstream media. Our mission is to give a place for the voices of those that are less heard, or ignored, who do not have the chance to represent themselves in the media. CitizenSHIFT is a valuable tool for organizations and individuals to have their issues talked about, and utilizing all the forums that multimedia interaction can offer.

Our content is dictated by the submissions that we receive, but there are often shared themes between groups and media makers. Currently we are showcasing different activist artists' work and perspectives on poverty and homelessness in the different chapters of the web magazine.

More information: <http://citizen.nfb.ca/onf/info>

In 2003 alone, the G8 countries exported major conventional weapons worth in excess of US\$24 billion. Whilst some of these exports were to other G8 or developed countries, the majority were to the developing world. Furthermore, the US Congressional Research Service estimates that of arms transfers to developing countries in 2003, around 89% came from just 5 members of the G8: the US, Russia, France, Britain and Germany.

It's fairly obvious that money which developing countries spend on fighter jets or missile launchers is money that isn't spent on health, education and poverty alleviation. The figures in this regard are alarming. According to the United Nations, seven developing countries spend more on the military than on health and education combined, with others coming close.

Source: www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=13&ItemID=8193

The National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI) extends its deepest sympathies to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. NESRI also expresses serious concern about the failure of government to meet its humanitarian and human rights obligations to the victims. NESRI also urges local, state and national officials to undertake a serious inquiry into the human rights conditions that led to the extreme vulnerability of residents.

For those who have been paying attention to poverty in the U.S., the faces of those most devastated by the hurricane are painful to watch but also predictable in their color. Social and economic inequity brought instability and insecurity well before this catastrophe. In order to prevent future tragedies of this magnitude and protect human rights, we must be better at providing a basic safety net for all.

NESRI promotes a cultural and political commitment to a human rights vision for the United States that ensures dignity and access to the basic resources needed for human development and civic participation.

The National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI) can be found at www.nesri.org

AUTHOR GIVES AWAY BOOKS TO CELEBRATE WEB-SITE LAUNCH

To mark the launch of her new website www.elizabethrhettwoods.ca, writer Elizabeth Rhett Woods is giving away her self-published books *If Only Things Were Different (I): A Model for a Sustainable Society*, a non-fiction work, and *Betsy's Dream*, a children's book.

Woods is the author of four books of poetry (most recently *The Absinthe of Desire*, Ekstasis Editions, 2004), and two novels, including *The Yellow Volkswagen*, Simon and Schuster, Canada, 1971, as well as poetry and plays broadcast on CBC Radio, including "Life and Death along The Gorge", *OutFront*, 2000.

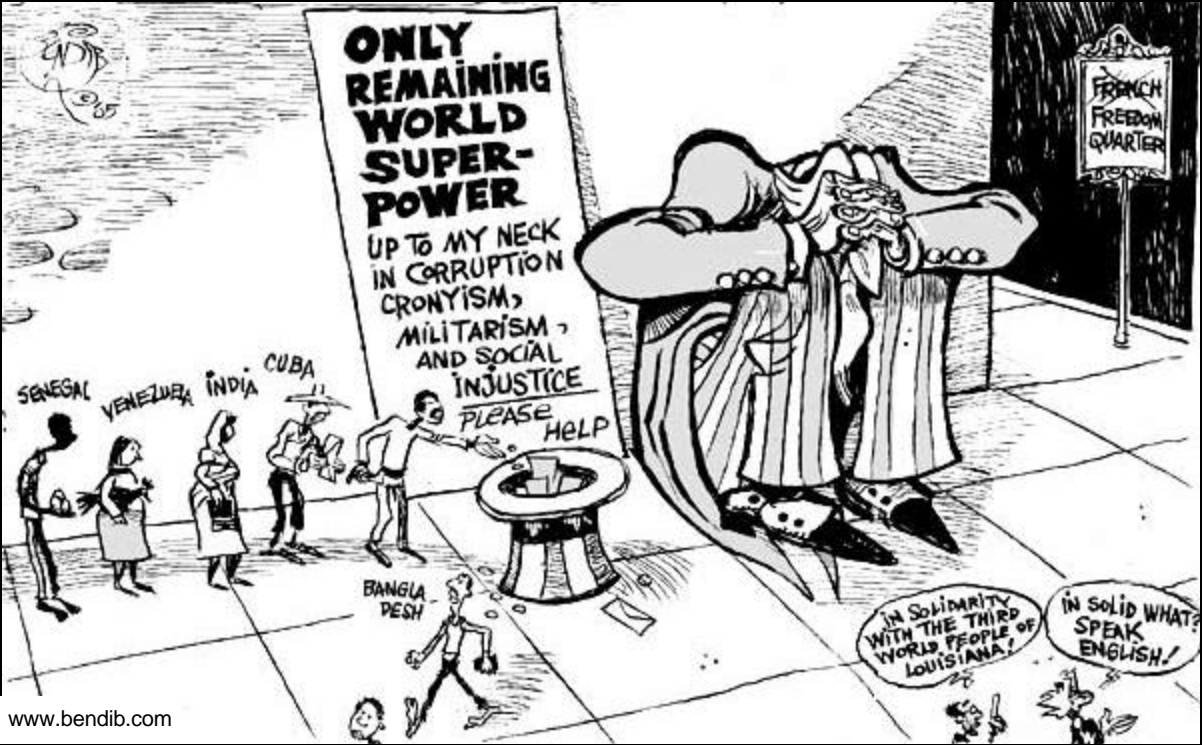
"I've made every traditional mistake in self-publishing, and then some," says Woods, "and I've got a considerable overstock. I can't bear to send them to recycling, so I'm using the launch of my website as an opportunity to let people know they're available.

"But there's a catch-you have to take at least 50 copies, and you must either pick them up [Woods lives in Victoria], or pay the postage-up to \$25 in Canada for 50 books."

Quantities under 50 are available at \$10 each, plus postage and handling.

The new website features excerpts from Woods' books-in print, and forth-coming-a brief biography, a list of publications, an opportunity for reader feed-back, and contact and ordering information.

Contact: Elizabeth Woods
Phone: (250) 479-7836
email: elizabeth@elizabethrhettwoods.ca



www.bendib.com

Drug War Casualties - Conclusion
Written by Phyllis Kahn, a human rights enthusiast.

The conclusion of Drug War Casualties reflects the writers views on some of the issues regarding the decriminalization of drugs.

Our best hope for restoring a measure of justice and sanity in Canadian Society is to put and end to the 'war on drugs' and dispel the myths about users, addicts and their lifestyles in order to stop the persecution of masses of people based on misinformation that translates into punitive social policies and practices & the creation of an underclass.

A more humane approach to the addiction/recovery movement would evolve with decriminalization such as the regulation and testing of drugs for quantity & quality to provide safer substances and thus, lives would be mercifully spared.

The establishment of safe injection sites would keep hope for recovery alive in the minds of addicts and their loved ones and communicable diseases associated with intravenous drug use would no longer be a drain on our health care system.

'Methadone maintenance' clinics would not require methadone ingestion in a public place or require compulsory urine testing & regular attendance at meetings that tie addicts to a regime of consumption that prevents them from doing anything else with their lives.

Addicts who want to quit using would automatically be provided with a private doctor, away from the 'clinic scene,' so they can avoid congregating with other addicts who don't want to relinquish their addiction(s).

The option to choose 'heroin maintenance' would also be plausible with decriminalization. "In Europe, the Scottish National Party is considering prescription heroin. The international evidence from Switzerland & the Netherlands suggests that heroin is more effective in getting people weaned off their addiction than methadone" (Drug War Chronicle, Issue #401).

The use of cannabis to aid in the withdrawal from narcotics and stimulants would be an accepted practice with decriminalization. A program using cannabis to wean youth from crystal meth addiction has achieved success in Kamloops, B.C.

Adequate detox opportunities to meet the demand would enable addicts to gain immediate access to treatment via hospital emergency 'intake' procedures before they give in to another addictive pattern. And the establishment of long term treatment/recovery programs could revitalize the economy of any number of towns on the island that suffered recent funding cuts to public services.

In a decriminalized milieu, the 'disease model of caring' known as codependency would be replaced with respect for family and friends in keeping with empirical evidence that recognizes caring as a virtuous attribute and confirms the value of personal as well as professional support.

As Bill Moyers says, "the war on drugs hardly makes for a culture of recovery." Therefore, with stumbling blocks removed from their path, more addicts in the early as well as advanced stages of addiction would opt for sobriety & recovery rates are bound to increase. Conversely, decriminalization would allow addicts to normalize their lives and participate in family and community life as they do in European countries whether they cannot or do not want to quit using the drug(s) of their choice.

"Harm reduction advocates agree that drug use ranges from positive experiences to problematic ones; therefore, abstinence is unnecessary and unrealistic for many users. Harm reduction does not reject abstinence. Rather, it includes abstinence in a wide range of options for drug users." (Boyd)

With decriminalization in place, the stigma of drug use and addiction experienced by males would be alleviated as well as the fear of child apprehension experienced by single mothers who face gender specific persecution if they are suspected of using a drug, particularly during pregnancy, if it is not prescribed by a medical doctor. All the social problems we now face and will continue to endure would be eliminated with decriminalization and the criminal activity associated with drug use would be drastically reduced, if not entirely eliminated.

Marginalized people suffer more persecution because their addictions are more visible than their middle and upper class counterparts even though poor people only constitute a fraction of the overall percentage of the addicted populace.

The war on drugs is a war on people that violates human rights and civil liberties and turns everyone into a victim &/or a casualty in one way or another.

All the social problems we now face and will continue to endure would be eliminated with decriminalization and the criminal activity associated with drug use would be drastically reduced, if not entirely eliminated.

Sources:

Boyd, Susan C., Mothers & Illicit Drugs: Transcending the Myths, Toronto Buffalo London: University of Toronto Press, Inc. 1999, Printed in Canada

Judges Against the Drug War (Internet)

LEAP: Law Enforcement Against Prohibition-Homepage (Internet)

Moyers, Bill, exec. editor & Rob Kuhns, editor, "Close to Home/Portrait of Addiction" (Video) a presentation of thirteen/WNET New York: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1998

Smith, Phillip S., Editor "Drug War Chronicle, Issue #401, Washington D.C. No. 14 Europe: "Scottish National Party Considers Prescription Heroin," August 26, 2005 (Internet)



A Message From A TWU Member

Don't let your jobs go overseas! Facts you NEED to know:

Telus International owns 70% of Ambergris Solutions

a.. Ambergris Solutions is located in Manila

b.. Manila is in the Philippines

c.. Minimum Wage in the Philippines is broken down by Sections

d.. Manila is located in a section of the Philippines known as the NCR Section

e.. The minimum wage in the NCR section is PhP276.50 per day

f.. PhP276.50 per day! That sounds like a lot of money!!!

g.. Why would Telus buy a company in a country paying that high of wage to employees?

h.. PhP276.50 is equal to \$5.99 Canadian PER DAYS WAGES! Not hourly - DAILY!

i.. Maybe Darren would be generous and pay triple the minimum wage to those employees!

j.. That would equal \$17.97 Canadian per days work

k... Did I mention Ambergris specializes in customer care services?

l.. They also do order tracking, account maintenance, & service dispatch

m.. Did I forget to mention they do customer relations, up-sell and cross- sell?

n.. Oh and don't forget a full range of technical support services

o.. Can you think of anyone else that has a job description like that? Hmmmmmm?

p.. A quick reminder - Telus OWNS this company!

q.. Any job in the new offer can be outsourced without negotiating with the union.

r.. Did you know Ambergris happens to have built another major call center in 2005?

s.. Do you have any idea why they would possibly need to build another large call center?

t.. Do you think after reading all this that your job would be "secure" under this new offer?

u.. Now do you see what we are fighting for! It's not the money. It's our future!

Sources of Information for your reading pleasure:

www.ambergrissolutions.com
Telus owned overseas Call Centre

www.telusinternational.com
Telus International with Ambergris purchase info

www.xe.com Currency converter

www.gov.ph/faqs/laborfaqs.asp Philippine Government with minimum wage rules
<http://www.twu-canada.ca/pdfs/FinalOfferprint.pdf>

Outsourcing Clause in the new offer:

ARTICLE 29 - CONTRACTING OUT
29.02 The Company will give notice in writing to the Union before contracting out any work that has been historically done by the employees in the bargaining unit. Such notice will state the reasons for the contracting out.

Reprinted from Bloomberg Saturday, January 8, 2005, Page B6

Telus Corp. chairman Brian Canfield and at least eight company executives sold shares in November and December, taking advantage of a doubling in the stock over the past two years.

Darren Entwistle's (President and CEO) compensation Source: Globeandmail.com...

2000 = \$ 764,000
2001 = \$1,915,683 = 150% increase from 2000
2002 = \$3,140,000 = 64% increase from 2001
2003 = \$4,250,000 = 35% increase from 2002
2004 = \$6,550,000 = 54% increase from 2003



From musician Chris Chandler, for New Orleans:

http://chrisvids.org/videos/9th_ward_new_orleans.html



From Ingmar and Krista, in Pondicherry, India

From Krista:

We've settled into a little town on the southeast coast in Tamil Nadu. It took Desi and I a couple days to figure out how to eat rice meals off of banana leaves with our right hands, squat-and-wash, and walk between the mostly open sewers and the chaotic traffic of oxen carts, bicycles, motorbikes, and 3-wheeled autos and trucks.

The things you see on the street here I don't think you would see anywhere else. The street is what the most visibly poor call home, of course just like everywhere else, but amidst what chaos and in such numbers ... so many babies and toddlers and dogs and cripples and 'mentals', as they are called, born into streets with open sewers and garbage and potholes and dust and flies. Many of them are probably dispossessed villagers as farming is really in the death-grip of the green revolution here. Soils are degrading and eroding faster here than almost anywhere and food production and processing are being taken out of the hands of smallholders by the tentacles of globalization. Where in the west access to opportunity is primarily economically determined, here the different castes competing for limited resources complicate things further.



'well-off' than the majority. Just that I have the opportunity to go to school puts me in the upper echelons.

Desi is attending the French Lysee in Grade 3, and gets a ton of holidays. Most of the kids in his class are Indian, but they all speak French and study the geography and history of France. He loves to play in the surf, eat pomegranates, drink chai specially cooled for him by the chai wallas, who pour the tea from one cup to another with outstretched arms, climb around the ancient temples out of town, and explore around and spot interesting sights. He's been sick a couple of times, but there's an MD/homeopath who runs a clinic by donation nearby and Desi responds well to his treatment.

University is about 11 kms north of town. I often squeeze onto the public busses to get there and back. My faculty advisor and her French husband are working on a conservation corridor for tigers and elephants in a rural area near Mysore. We are hoping to make a short film about it. One of her PhD students has asked me to help with her work on local restoration sites in the tropical dry evergreen forest, including an 85 sq. km. international commune just out of town. It has residents from 40 odd countries, windmills, solar power, really nifty architecture, recovering forests, organic farms and cottage industries, quiet trails, a spiritual mission of human evolution, and an incomprehensible bureaucracy which kind of prevented us from settling there immediately.

All in all we are getting a wonderful cultural immersion. The people, in all their diversity, are perfectly friendly, helpful, and cheerful. Desi is constantly getting his cheeks caressed adoringly by smiling strangers.

From Ingmar:

Things are a lot different in many ways, but it's also very much the same India that I have been travelling to since I first hacked my way overland from Europe back in 1977. I went through Iran under the Shah, and spent a month going across Afghanistan before oil geopolitics relegated that most awesomely beautiful country as a superpower battlefield, where the USA and the USSR went at it.

I've seen the population of India almost double, within my own experience. It's gone from 650 million to more than a billion in 30 years. For most of the past 30 years, India functioned basically on infrastructure left behind by the Brits, and under Indira Gandhi and her successors, it managed to stave off the worst excesses of so-called modern-day consumer culture.

Indira restricted the importation of nearly every commodity, which allowed India to develop a phenomenal industrial base, but during the past 10 years, a dreadful neo-con sort of party, the BJP ran the country and opened the floodgates to every sort of import. Now, if you can drink it, it's probably produced by Coke.

It's more difficult to find the magic that is India, but it's still there, perhaps more buried under the billboards, the smog, the crush of humanity, and the general chaos and cataclysm of India. It certainly is still there, in this land of no middle ground, where everything is at the extreme.

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Reprinted from **The Great, "Great Bear Rainforest" Scam**, originally published at PEJ.ORG, by Ingmar Lee, September 19, 2005

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EXCLUSIVE OPINION POLL

VICTORIA RIDING: STREET NEWZ POLL		
Denise Savoie (New Democrat)	39.0%
David Mulroney (Liberal)	.....	27.5%
Robin Baird (Conservative)	.....	24.0%
Ariel Lade (Green)	.....	7.5%
Others	.....	2.0%

VICTORIA RIDING: 2004 ELECTION		
David Anderson (Liberal)	.....	35.0%
David Turner (New Democrat)	.....	31.1%
Logan Wenham (Conservative)	.....	21.8%
Ariel Lade (Green)	.....	11.7%
Derek Skinner (Canadian Action Party)	....	0.4%

VICTORIA RIDING: 2000 ELECTION		
David Anderson (Liberal)	.....	42.7%
Bruce Hallsor (Canadian Alliance)	.....	29.7%
David Turner (New Democrat)	.....	13.0%
Brian Burchill (Progressive Conservative)	...	6.5%
Joan Russow (Green)	.....	5.9%
Others	.....	2.2%

SAVOIE LEADING IN VICTORIA FEDERAL RIDING

It appears Victoria might soon have its first female Member of Parliament in the 134-year history of the Victoria federal riding.

Victoria City Councillor Denise Savoie has emerged as the clear leader in the race to become Victoria’s next MP, according to the results of an exclusive public opinion survey conducted for the *Victoria Street Newz*.

A random sample of 400 decided voters in the Victoria federal constituency were polled by telephone from September 2nd to 10th and asked:

“If a federal election were being held today, which candidate would you vote for in the Victoria riding:

**Robin Baird of the Conservative Party,
Ariel Lade of the Green Party,
David Mulroney of the Liberal Party,
or Denise Savoie of the New Democratic Party?”**

Savoie received support from 156 respondents (39 per cent) while Mulroney got 110 votes (27.5 per cent), Baird 96 votes (24 per cent) and Lade 30 votes (7.5 percent). Eight respondents (2 per cent) supported other parties (the Marijuana Party, the Canadian Action Party and the Communist Party).

In addition, 58 respondents (12.7 per cent of the overall total) said they are still undecided.

The poll indicates the political pendulum in the riding is continuing to swing toward the NDP. The party's candidate in the last two elections, David Turner, obtained only 7,243 votes in 2000 but increased his vote total dramatically in 2004 to 18,093.

By contrast, it appears support for the Liberals is continuing to dwindle. In 2000 David Anderson won the seat comfortably for the Liberals with 23,730 votes but in 2004 he barely managed to hold on to it with 20,398 votes.

It is a good-news-and-bad-news poll for the Conservatives. Their support has come up from the 12,708 votes obtained in 2004 by their young candidate Logan Wenham. But the party has not yet climbed back to the support level enjoyed by its two predecessor parties in 2000 when Bruce Hallsor of the Canadian Alliance received 16,502 votes and Brian Burchill of the Progressive Conservative Party got 3,629.

Support for the Green Party, which doubled from 3,264 votes for Joan Russow in 2000 to 6,807 for Ariel Lade in 2004, now appears to be dropping, as it did in both Victoria provincial ridings on May 17th.

It is expected about 60,000 votes will be cast in Victoria in the next federal election. If the trend in the *Street Newz* poll holds, Savoie would likely get about 23,000 to 25,000 votes while Mulroney would get 16,000 to 18,000, Baird 14,000 to 16,000 and Lade 5,000 to 7,000.

The results of the *Street Newz* poll appear to be generally consistent with the results in Victoria in last May's provincial election. It seems likely Savoie will receive support from at least 55 per cent (and probably more) of the 16,081 voters who cast ballots for Carole James in Victoria-Beacon Hill, the 13,911 who voted for Rob Fleming in Victoria-Hillside and the 12,016 who voted for Charley Beresford in Oak Bay-Gordon Head. That would produce a minimum total of 23,104 votes.

That total would likely be enough for Savoie to win, though a victory would not be guaranteed. For example, New Democrat Ted Miller lost even though he obtained 25,659 votes in Nanaimo-Alberni in 1984, as did New Democrat Johanna den Hertog with 23,351 votes in Vancouver Centre in 1988 and Liberal Gordon Hogg with 24,683 votes in Surrey-White Rock-South Langley in 1993. In all three of those situations, however, the political atmosphere appears to have been much more polarized than it is in Victoria at present.

Indeed, in the *Street Newz* poll, both NDP and Liberal support was fairly evenly distributed across the Victoria riding, though, as is traditional, the NDP did better in the relatively lower-income part of the constituency west of Shelbourne Street while the Liberals were stronger in the more affluent area east of Shelbourne. Conservative support was concentrated heavily in higher-income areas.

The Victoria seat in Parliament has come up for grabs due to the impending retirement of Liberal MP David Anderson, who has been a major player on Victoria’s political stage over a span of almost four decades. In the 1968 federal election, the then 31-year-old Anderson rode a national wave of “Trudeaumania” to victory in the old Esquimalt-Saanich riding.

Anderson then, however, made an ill-starred venture into provincial politics. Though he won the B.C. Liberal leadership and a legislative seat in Victoria in 1972, he suffered a humiliating blow when three of the other four members of his caucus defected to Social Credit. In 1975 he failed to win re-election.

After spending the next 18 years in political hibernation, a much older-looking, bewhiskered Anderson re-emerged in 1993 to win the Victoria federal seat for Jean Chrétien's Liberals. Since then, he has been re-elected three times and has held four different cabinet portfolios (National Revenue, Transport, Fisheries and Oceans, and the Environment).

The candidate trying to retain the Victoria seat for the Liberals, local lawyer David Mulroney, placed a strong second in 2004 in the neighbouring Saanich-Gulf Islands riding with 17,082 votes to 22,050 for Conservative winner Gary Lunn. Mulroney is hoping to follow in the long-ago footsteps of Liberal MP David Groos who won in Victoria in 1963, 1965, and 1968 after losing in Esquimalt-Saanich in 1961 and 1962.

NDP challenger Denise Savoie has been a member of Victoria city council since 1999 and worked as a teacher and federal civil servant for 25 years. Born in St. Boniface, Man., she was educated at UBC and in France, and she is fluent in English, French and Spanish.

The standard-bearer for Stephen Harper's Conservatives, V ictoria lawyer Robin Baird, is making his first bid for elective office. He is hoping to revive his party’s fortunes in the Victoria riding, which was once considered a Conservative stronghold. Indeed, when Tory icon Sir John A. Macdonald lost his parliamentary seat in Ontario in 1878, he “parachuted” (pardon the anachronism) into a “safe” seat in Victoria. In more recent history, the Conservatives held the Victoria riding from 1972 to 1988, with MP Allan McKinnon winning five consecutive elections.

The Green Party's candidate, Ariel Lade, a young economist and environmental activist, ran in Victoria in 2004 and, as noted earlier, substantially increased the Green vote in the riding. Lade also stood as a Green candidate in last May’s provincial election in Peace River South, placing third with 956 votes to 5,810 for B.C. Liberal winner Blair Lekstrom.

If Savoie wins, she will make history. Since B.C. joined Confederation 134 years ago, residents of the Victoria riding have gone to the polls 45 times in federal general elections and by-elections and have always chosen white male representatives: a total of 20 (from Henry Nathan Jr. and Amor De Cosmos in 1871 to David Anderson in 2004).

At the provincial level, however, Victoria has been comparatively good fighting ground for female candidates. Liberal Nancy Hodges broke the gender barrier in Victoria by winning a legislative seat in 1941 and she later became the first female Speaker of any assembly in the British Commonwealth. Victoria voters have sent four other women (Social Crediter Lydia Arsens, New Democrat Gretchen Brewin, B.C. Liberal Sheila Orr and New Democrat Carole James) to the legislature.

It should also be noted five women have won federal or provincial seats in other parts of Greater Victoria: New Democrat Lynn Hunter as MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands, New Democrat Elizabeth Cull as MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head, B.C. Liberal Ida Chong as MLA for Oak-Bay-Gordon Head, B.C. Liberal Susan Brice as MLA for Saanich South and New Democrat Maurine Karagianis as MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin.

Savoie is trying to become only the second New Democrat ever to win the Victoria federal seat. In 1988 lawyer John Brewin won Victoria for the NDP, ending a 117-year-long unbroken stretch of Conservative-Liberal control of the riding.

Brewin, however, became a bit of an embarrassment to the NDP when he declared bankruptcy while in office. In 1993 he was turfed out by the voters.

As for the date of the next federal election, that is still a matter of conjecture, though most political observers believe Prime Minister Paul Martin will call the vote for February or March, 2006.

Editor’s Note: Gordon Pollard, who carried out this survey for Victoria Street Newz, conducted many opinion polls in B.C., Alberta and Ontario while working as a journalist in the 1960s and 1970s. In November, 2004, Gordon carried out two surveys for Victoria Street Newz, in the provincial ridings of Victoria-Beacon Hill and Victoria-Hillside. Those polls (showing the NDP winning both seats by a wide margin, with the B.C. Liberal and Green vote dropping in both constituencies) proved to be an accurate forecast of the results in the two ridings in the May 2005 provincial election.

poetry art and music

Don't follow me

When I was a child, I had many learning problems,
and only the Lord seemed to know why.
As a young lad I was abused to no good end,
by a drunken father and others that tormented me.
So in my teens, as I became sexually molested,
it wasn't long before I dropped out of school.
In my early twenties, no smarter than a peppercorn,
prison soon found me a new place to rest my head.
To make worse my time spent in this unholy hole,
I rebelled against the cruel and unjust system.
Soon I learned how to expect and how to receive,
all the rewards, that were never meant to be mine.
I was also told the forbidden knowledge of crime,
which I would put to good use, in my own good time.
While in prison I witnessed such acts of violence,
evils I never thought ever possible by mankind.
Yet in spite of the wickedness I saw and experienced,
prison life only made me grow stronger and colder.
In my thirties I was rejected by an unforgiving society,
so in time and in turn I learned to despise her back.
Soon I would start to take all I was never given,
and I gave back nothing at all in sympathy or return.
I showed my constant pain through my acts of rage,
and no one could every cage my total destruction.
I became invincible and untouchable in my own mind,
an illusion I lived with, well beyond a realistic time.
And although I had no great love for the order of things,
I always found a way to give back to the poor and dying.
I was even fortunate enough to experience some love,
even if I was to lose that love to death in due time.
Yet such is life, living on the fringe of a cold society,
where the only thing sacred is our forgetfulness.
For to forget a great wrong done to one, is to forgive,
and to forgive is to allow the one to still live on.
To not forgive someone, is to avenge and destroy,
and vengeance is the mother of all things evil.
So it is no great mystery when and why we fall,
the great mystery is how we will get up yet again.
How one breathes new life into a once dead soul,
now this is a great Crown worth searching for.
Now my Go ld was gone to rest in other lonely lands
and my hate taken by the wind to rest in other hands.
So in an effort to change the minds of a small few,
Don't follow me; follow only the true heart in you ...

Robert Raymond French



She's Got Lip Gloss Soda Crackers

She's Got Lip Gloss Soda Crackers
She's a cool hot sweet and sour
A soup de jour for sure (any day)
Being not much of a careful eater
I eat anywhere on a well hid table cloth

I drive half sprung running shoes
Like to ride in an open sports car
With the red top down

But she's got lip gloss soda crackers
Me at a loss for ordinary words
The obvious intent
Usually lost in these absurd sometimes abstract words

She's got a lip gloss seaweed smile
That nine second look stopped time
The frying smile
On a warm salt sea surface
She wears different things each time

She's got lip gloss soda crackers
Walks crunches rocks and crushes shells
But you never can tell
In that nine second look
What the thought of her took
In the rolling and tossing
And not being able to sleep
But maybe - I completely misunderstood

©Paul Burnside, June 9, 2005.
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written consent of the author.*



Forbidden

As I water the strawberries at the end of August I remember the betrayal
at the wooden gate you stood ready to secretly meet another
and told me to have a good one
I looked at you and wondered what you were saying to me
I sensed something duplicit in your tone
almost a vacancy of soulless words
you knew you were in the throes of harming me
but your desire was great and the forbidden beckoned
I am happy you have left today
I heard the thunder of the gods yesterday
I saw the torrents of rain
washing clean the wounds of betrayal.
I wonder if you will ever have the courage to face
me again.

solange

Thrift Store Music

Have you ever wanted to be a radio DJ?

For over four years a team of special needs folk have been doing just that. Originally set up as a half hour show under the guidance of founder Bill Schmuck, Thrift Store Music has blossomed into a full hour segment that is immensely popular with many who frequent the St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Ozanam Centre.

I sat in on a show in late August. Christopher McIntyre is the current show host, and he provides the technical expertise that moves the show from the studio onto the airwaves. Graham, aka Shotgun, helps with the paperwork for the radio station's logs. These two may co-ordinate the show, but the hour belongs to the DJs. This day Brent, Jennifer, and Roy, were choosing the music. Jennifer is fairly new to radio, but "so far it's neat," she told me. "I like listening to music, and now I actually get to be on the radio!" Brent, too, explains "I like the music," and our conversation stops as Brent introduces his musical selection – *These Eyes* by the Guess Who, which he sends out to his girlfriend.

While the music's playing I learn that these three unique DJs are on a five week rotation, specially selected from a sign-up list at the Ozanam Centre. Teams of two or three are brought to the radio station in the SVDP vans each week. They're invited to bring their own music, or choose some from the Ozanam's library. Roy told me "I've got a whole bunch of CDs – the Eagles, Marty Robbins, Johnny Horton ... I like to be a disc jockey."

"CFUV is an alternative radio station," Christopher explains, "but our clients like to play popular music because that's what they listen to." As a volunteer programmer at CFUV myself, I know that its license requires that we showcase musicians who perform outside the mainstream, who aren't necessarily offered opportunities to be heard on other radio stations. At CFUV we're only allowed to play a certain percentage of "top-40" music each year and, I've been told, Thrift Store Music consumes pretty much our entire quota.

Randy Gelling, CFUV's station manager, says "CFUV is about promoting artists who wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to be heard, but it's also about being inclusive and supportive of the local community. Thrift Store Music is special, so we make special provisions for them."

The Garth Homer Society is another local organization with a mission "to create opportunities for independence, growth and participation in the community with people who strive to overcome developmental and physical obstacles." They've had a strong and healthy working relationship with CFUV for over five years. During the past three years Shannon Latham, CFUV's Volunteer Co-ordinator, has kept the Garth Homer volunteers busy with important behind-the-scenes tasks including organizing the music library, answering phones, and helping with seasonal mail-outs.

CFUV depends heavily on volunteer labour. All the programmers (DJs) are volunteers, and comprise about 73% of the total volunteer base which fluctuates between 150-200. Shannon is one of only three full-time staff. "Whenever I do an orientation for new volunteers," Shannon explains, "I make it clear that there are people from all different backgrounds and beliefs. As a community radio station we want to make it a safe environment for everybody."

"Because of our rather limited resources, we ask that our special needs volunteers be joined by a worker, unless they're really independent," explains Program Director Zeta Lay. "We find work that's useful for them and for us, so their time's not wasted." Zeta appreciates all the help she receives that helps the station run smoothly, and she's particularly impressed with what she's seen from the folks at Garth Homer. "They're amazing volunteers" she says, "and they're always treated with respect in this space."

From what I witnessed in the on-air booth with Thrift Store Music, they're also an amazing team - relaxed, enthusiastic, and obviously happy to be part of the CFUV crew. "The opportunity's open to anyone participating in the Ozanam programs," explains Christopher, "as long as they don't swear, don't tell stories about other people, and talk into the microphone."



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*Story and photo
by Janine*

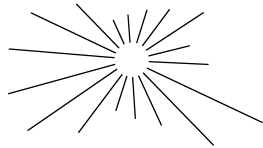


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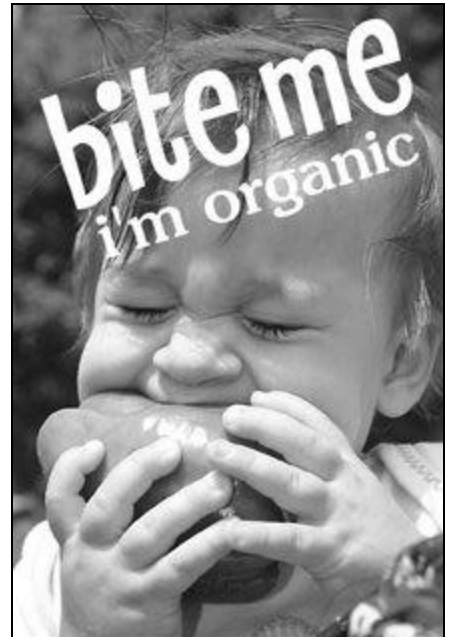


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counting the beans (corrections noted)

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